

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00534 01 OF 02 201952Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /098 W
-----064104 202006Z /43

R 201917Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 190
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTREAL 534

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC ELECTORATE STILL CONTRARY: LATEST POLL

REF: MONTREAL 491 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: LATEST ISSUE OF IQOP RESULTS (REFTELS) DEALS
WITH THE MOOD OF THE QUEBECOIS (NOT GOOD) AND RELATIVE APPRE-
CIATION OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE FORCES (THE FORMER
SEEM TO BE FAVORED). THE U.S. RUNS A BAD LAST IN THEIR AFFEC-
TION, APPARENTLY, VIS-A-VIS EITHER THE STATUS QUO OR ANY
ALTERNATIVE ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT SPELLED OUT.

2. THE FIRST CHART INDICATES THE GENERAL MOOD OF THE POPU-
LATION:

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE GOING NOW IN QUEBEC?

	TOTAL	FRANCOPHONES	ANGLOPHONES
	(N-714)	(N-593)	(N-121)
VERY WELL	1.7	0.1	0.8
WELL	34.0	37.4	17.3

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MONTRE 00534 01 OF 02 201952Z

BADLY	46.6	45.5	52.0
VERY BADLY	11.5	10.3	17.3
NO OPINION	6.2	4.9	12.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

COMMENT: IT IS SLIGHTLY SURPRISING THAT MORE ANGLOPHONES WERE
UNDECIDED THAN FRANCOPHONES, IF INDEED THEY WERE. IT IS MORE

LIKELY, IN OUR VIEW, THEY WERE UNWILLING TO GIVE AN OPINION.
IT IS NOT SURPRISING, HOWEVER, THAT A COMBINED 58.1 PERCENT, THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING BADLY. MANY, BOTH FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE, ARE DISAFFECTED BY AN ASSORTMENT OF IRRITATIONS (NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME). THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ARTICLES RECENTLY ABOUT THE MOROSITY OF THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS POLL, USUALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF BELIEVING IT. WELL IT MIGHT BE.

3. THE NEXT SEVERAL QUESTIONS COVER THE ROLE OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE -- WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY FIRE FOR ILLEGAL ACTS IN QUEBEC. ONE COULD NOT TELL IT FROM THE RESULTS OF THESE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: DO YOU STILL HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE RCMP?

	TOTAL (N-714)	FRANCOPHONE (N-593)	ANGLOPHONE (N-121)
STILL HAVE			
CONFIDENCE			
IN THE GRC	57.7	55.6	67.7
NO LONGER HAVE			
CONFIDENCE			
IN THE GRC	19.6	20.9	13.2
NO OPINION	22.7	23.5	19.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MONTRE 00534 01 OF 02 201952Z

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 PLUS
STILL HAVE						
CONFIDENCE						
IN THE GRC	42.5	56.9	61.1	69.4	55.4	63.5
NO LONGER HAVE						
CONFIDENCE						
IN THE GRC	31.0	23.4	15.3	10.2	18.9	12.7
NO OPINION	26.5	19.7	23.6	20.4	25.7	23.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

QUESTION: IN YOUR OPINION SHOULD THE RCMP HAVE FOR ITS ACTIVITIES:

	TOTAL (N-714)
MORE POWER	39.5 PERCENT
LESS POWER	21.4 PERCENT
NO OPINION	27.8 PERCENT
TOTAL	100.0 PERCENT

QUESTION: HOW MUCH CONTROL SHOULD THERE BE OVER THE RCMP?

	TOTAL (N-714)
MORE CONTROL	66.7 PERCENT

LESS CONTROL 6.4 PERCENT

NO OPINION 26.9 PERCENT

TOTAL 100.0 PERCENT

QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE THE QUEBEC POLICE FORCE SHOULD REPLACE
THE RCMP IN QUEBEC?

TOTAL

(N-714)

YES 29.8 PERCENT

NO 46.5 PERCENT

NO OPINION 23.7 PERCENT

TOTAL 100.0 PERCENT

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00534 02 OF 02 201956Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTREAL 0534

COMMENT: IT IS REASONABLE THAT THE CONFIDENCE IN THE RCMP WOULD
INCREASE WITH AGE, BUT IT IS AGAIN SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT SO MANY
OF THE YOUTH HAVE NOT BEEN "TURNED OFF" BY THE ALLEGATIONS OF
VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS BY THIS ORGANIZATION. THE SECONDARY
CHARTS DO NOT SHOW A BREAK-OUT BY AGE ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT THE
OVERALL FIGURES (AND THE ACCOMPANYING TEXT) INDICATE THAT THE
QUEBECOIS HAVE NOT LOST FAITH IN THIS FEDERAL INSTITUTION
(REGARDLESS OF SEX, AGE, OR REGION) EVEN IF THEY WISH TO SEE
MORE CONTROL OVER IT. (NB: WE ARE PREPARED TO BELIEVE THIS
BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN BORNE OUT IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH
BOTH ANGLOPHONES AND FRANCOPHONES IN MONTREAL.)

4. THE FINAL "ISSUE" IN THIS ISSUE WAS "WOULD YOU BE FOR OR
AGAINST QUEBEC BECOMING EVENTUALLY AN AMERICAN STATE?"

TOTAL

(N-714)

FOR 12.2
AGAINST 78.2
NO OPINION 9.6
TOTAL 100.0

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MONTRE 00534 02 OF 02 201956Z

COMMENT: PROBABLY THE MOST SURPRISING ASPECT OF THIS RESPONSE IS THE UNDECIDEDS. ALTHOUGH SOME 15-PLUS PERCENT OF OUR NEW IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS ARE FRANCOPHONE QUEBECOIS, IN GENERAL THE FRANCOPHONES, IN MONTREAL AT LEAST, DO NOT THINK IN TERMS OF BEING ANYTHING OTHER THAN QUEBECOIS. THEY MAY OR MAY NOT THINK OF THEMSELVES AS ALSO CANADIANS BUT MANY ASSUREDLY DO NOT THINK OF THEMSELVES AS EITHER FRENCH, OR NORTH AMERICANS FOR THE MOST PART. THEY THINK FIRST OF BEING QUEBECOIS, NO MATTER WHAT EMOTIONAL, CULTURAL, OR GEOGRAPHIC TIE(S) THEY MAY HAVE TO OTHER REGIONS. TEN PERCENT IS SIZABLE ON AN ISSUE OF THIS CHARACTER.
HARPER

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